

An.

Inaugural Dissertation  
on  
Mineral Disease

I am not satisfied as to  
the nature of this disease  
as laid down by authors -  
Nor of the affection of J. Hunter  
so much confided in - &  
Up to now than before  
since while reading  
an excellent paper of  
Mr. Simpson in the  
Ed. Med. Library Journal  
of July 1827 - who  
finishes all their affections

Submitted

To

Dated March 10<sup>th</sup>. 1828

The Examination of the Professors and Trustees of  
the  
University of Pennsylvania

To

The Degree of  
Doctor of Medicine

By

Henry M. Peter  
Carolina

In 3 Centuries that Q has been employed  
largely in syphilis - a state of affairs which  
all the learned physicians during that  
time could have so entirely overlooked  
which was due to the disease - or to the  
remedy? Is there a symptom now,  
not stated by old authors - even before  
the more general use of Q, Lachet's  
syphilis was cured by the Quercum  
+ for a Student to repeat this, rather exceeds the  
bounds of modesty.

Does Q ever, however largely given, pro-  
duce those symptoms - except where  
syphilis is concerned?

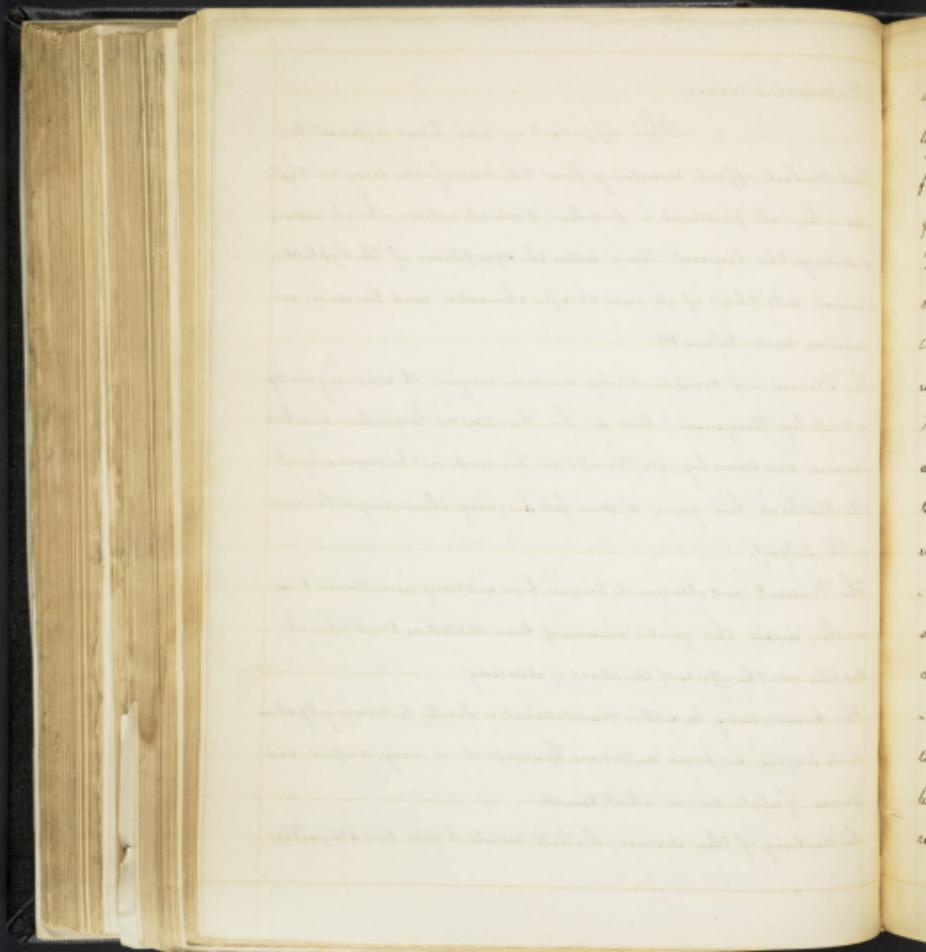
### Mucous Disease.

This appellation has been offered to that morbid effect resulting from the use of mercury in syphilis when it produces a peculiar disease action which suspends or destroys the Venereal Vines, alters the symptoms of the Syphilitic disease into those of its own specific character, and produces new vesicular nodes ulcers &c.

This Disease is of comparatively modern origin; it was originally noticed by Benjamin Bell in his Treatise on Gonorrhoea and the Pox, and since by Mr Hunter in his work on the same subject. Mr Mathias has given a more full inquiry than any other writer on the subject.

The Venereal and Mucous Diseases bear a strong resemblance to one another; indeed, the greater number of cases treated as constitutional Syphilis are the effects of the abuse of mercury. <sup>Y +</sup> Mucous Disease <sup>first</sup> <sup>aa</sup> <sup>cc</sup> <sup>cc</sup>  
This disease may be either Constitutional or Local; it commonly slow in its progress, in some instances however it is very rapid and proves fatal in a short time.

In treating of this disease, I shall divide it into two stages (viz)



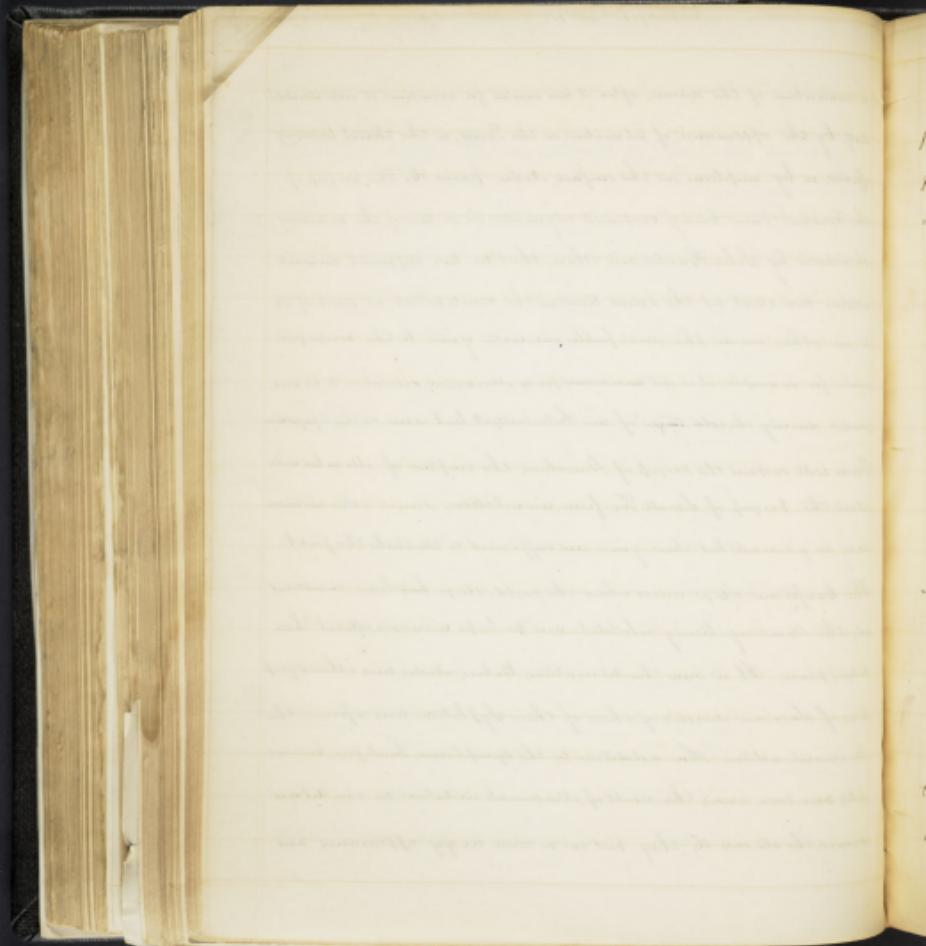
The Milder and the Confused. The mild stage is characterized by a loss of the power of the medicine over the disease, and the further progress of the Venereal action interrupted; the ulcer & being gradually their venereal, and opening the ulterior action; they however still have the outward appearances of the venereal disease. It is of the greatest consequence to the patient that this stage of the disease should not be overlooked, for it is at this period that we are able most readily to detect the disease.

Some  
and  
those

These symptoms however are not usually attributed to the ulterior action of the mercury, but to its being exhibited in quantities so small to make any impression on the disease and it is therefore considered of being discontinued. Should this stage be neglected and the medicine continued, the disease will become so firmly established as to demand months, nay even years to cure. Should no ulcers be present and the milder Mercurial action takes place, we will be enabled to detect the disease by the pains in the bones & not yielding to the medicine, if it has been given in large quantities, we may rest assured the cure is now <sup>done</sup> <sup>got</sup> <sup>why</sup> curable. Even if we are not able to decide positively as to the existence

+ are then never the result of syphilitic action.

or nonexistence of the disease; after it has existed for sometime it will develop itself by the appearance of ulceration on the Penis, or the throat becoming affected, or by eruptions on the surface Nodules, Pustules &c. The progress of the Venereal Disease being suspended originates, in a law of the occurring <sup>not less</sup> elucidated by John Hunter and others, that no two different diseased actions can exist at the same time in the constitution or part of it, or in other words the more feeble one will yield to the more powerful, for example, it is not uncommon for a mercureal salivation to be suspended during the cold stage of an Intermittent but recurs in the pyrexia. Hence will surmise the progress of Gonorrhoea the eruption of Measles will retard the progress of Small Pox from inoculation, several other actions may be adduced but these give an sufficient to establish the fact. The Confirmed stage arises when the mild stage has been maintained, the Mercury being exhibited and perhaps increased after it has taken place. It is now the ulcerations, Bubos, Nodules, and other symptoms of Sues are divested of this of their Syphilis and assume the <sup>now fit  
upon him</sup> ~~upon him~~ <sup>proof</sup> Mercureal action. In addition to the symptoms Syphilis enumerates new ones and the result of mercureal irritation as new ulcers around the old ones &c. they put on a more angry appearance and



resemble the Phagedemic. Mucous ulcers are liable to be mistaken for Cancerous or Scrofulous Ulcers. The Cancerous may be distinguished from the mucous Ulcer, by Sessile and other characteristics of Cancer preceding it, as lancinating pain, discharge of bloody matter, fungus, the margins are elevated and serrated very irregularly. The Scrofulous Ulcer is preceded by an enlargement without pain, the slowly proceeds to suppuration and ulceration, the edges are smooth and thin of a purple hue, and overhang, a crusty thin matter is discharged.

The Mucous Ulcer may be distinguished from the Cancerous Ulcer by wanting the fungus, and is more active than the Scrofulous, its edges are serrated, sometimes thorny instead, the mass of growth <sup>2 distinct</sup> ~~action~~ may be going on in one part of the Ulcer and ulceration <sup>action</sup> is another. A peculiarity in Mucous Ulcers is to return after having disappeared, also the appearance of new Ulcers around them that were originally cancerous.

It sometimes happens that an Ulcer is treated as Mucous, when the cause of its stamp in healing depends acting in the want of a sufficient quantity of albumen. These cases are rare, it

and the first time I have seen it. It is a very large tree, and the trunk is  
about 10 feet in diameter. The bark is smooth and greyish,  
and the leaves are large and broad, about 12 inches long and 8  
inches wide. The flowers are white and fragrant, and the fruit  
is a large, round, yellowish-orange berry. The tree is  
native to the Amazon basin and is found throughout the  
region. It is a valuable timber tree and is used for  
construction and furniture. The wood is very strong and  
durable, and is used for building houses and bridges. The  
leaves are used for making hats and umbrellas. The  
berries are eaten raw or cooked and are used as a  
sweetener. The tree is also used for medicinal purposes.  
The bark is used for treating skin diseases, and the  
leaves are used for treating fevers and colds. The  
berries are used for treating diarrhea and constipation.  
The tree is also used for making dyes and pigments.  
The wood is used for making charcoal and  
the bark is used for tanning leather.

more frequently departs as an erupt. It is not unusual for the symptoms of cutaneous Disease to disappear entirely in summer, but so soon as winter approaches, they return.

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The Causes are either precipitating or exciting. As one among the first, Idiosyncrasy may be mentioned; weak pulse constitutions are peculiarly propitious to the malady; mental action, unwholesome habits also assist in producing this disease. The exciting causes are, exposure, topical mercurial, &c. & produce the local disease, the internal use of mercury.

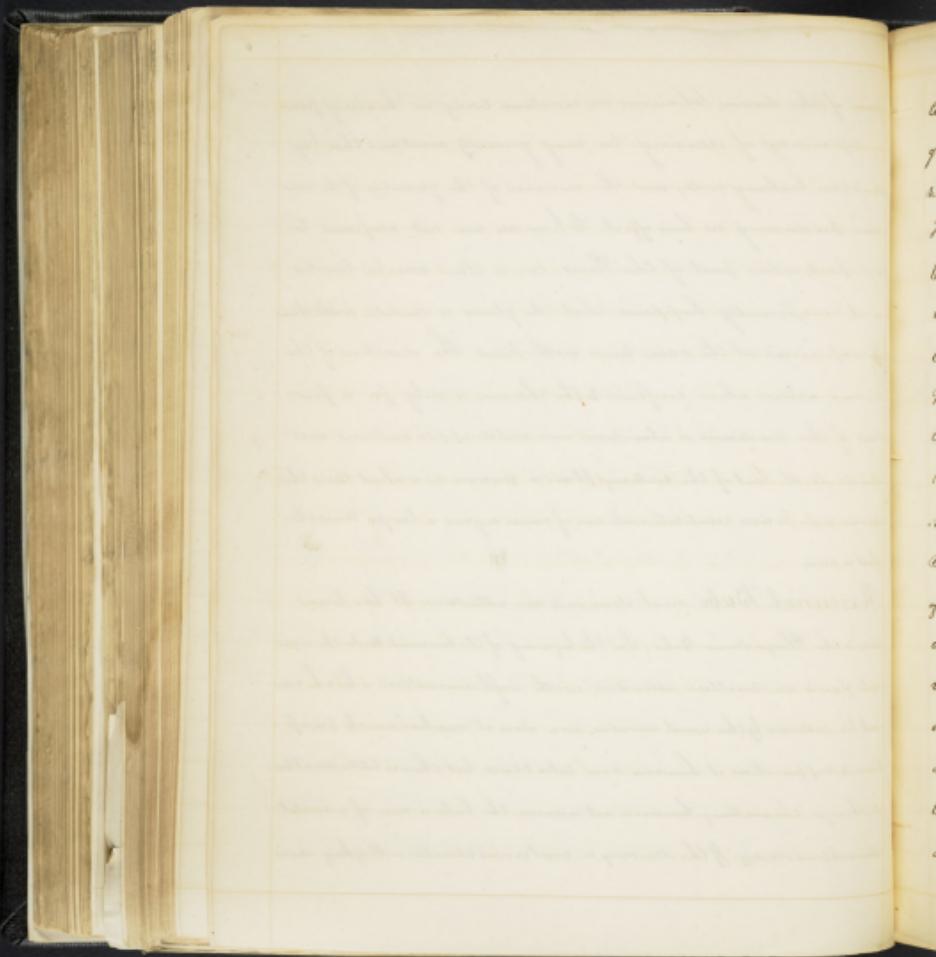
7.

Having now given the history and causes of this disease, I shall proceed to treat more particularly of the symptoms, and part of Chancery. When a chancre is upon the malleolar muscle, the medicine does not exercise the same corrective power that it does previously, should it be continued they spread and become inflamed, and if the medicine is urged still farther they sink deep and become very unwholesome; should the chancre be only local there will be great probability of the system at large becoming affected, and we should have presented to us, all the symptoms hitherto enumerated as attesting the constitutional



four of the disease, changes are sometimes tardy in healing from a deficiency of mercury. We may generally ascertain this, by the ulcer looking white, and the increase of the gravity of the medicine producing no bad effect. Changes are not confined to any particular part of the penis, nor is their number limited as it occasionally happens that the glans is studded with them accompanied at the same time with pain. The duration of the diseased action when confined to the changes, is only for a few days if the medicine is abandoned and mild aperient catharsis are made to it. but if the contrary plan is pursued in a short time the disease will become constitutional and of course require a longer time to effect a cure.

Mercurial Bubo next demands our attention. It has been termed the Phagedenic Bubo. In the beginning of the Mercurial Bubo the inguinal glands are swollen attended with inflammation which can not be reduced by the usual remedies, nor does it make much progress towards suppuration, it however does take place, but there is little matter discharged the swelling however is not reduced, the bubo is now of a scutellous appearance attending. If the mercury is continued iteration a sloughing now



take place, the matter secreted is now ichorous and in considerable quantities, the pain is greatly increased. In some instances the ulceration is very extensive.

This disease may have few stimulating material applications, or, be the effect of the general disease, though locut it sometimes extends to the system and the patient has the general disease; should this be allowed to continue, the unfortunate patient will lose strength, his appetite will be gone, he will have night sweats, pains in the bones, weak pulse, and other symptoms of hectic.

Ulcerated Throat. The uvula, tonsillar glands, and the eight to twelve cartilages are all liable to ulcers at the disease's initial action. In some instances the back of the pharynx also becomes affected. Ulcers of these parts are rarely concreted with a local state of the disease and now and then are very formidable so much so as to bear the mucus and destroy the uvula, palato bones &c. Ulcers of the tonsils are liable to metastasis (viz) the one that is affected being suddenly and ulcerations appear on the other, this liability to metastasis has been considered "almost a pathognomonic sign of the disease" elsewhere in the throat. <sup>for my own part, I think it is entitled to</sup>



very little attention, and independently of other symptoms would afford but dubious evidence of the existence of the disease. The Tumoral ulceration in the throat and the Mercurial have a great resemblance, so as to render it, in very many maladies to distinguish them, one from the other, by inquiring if the ulcer existed previous to the use of the Mercury, and also the quantity given may have some weight in influencing our decision. The Throat, Bones, and Cartilages, are also subject to the Mercurial Disease, when affected heat, pain and swelling are present. The same resemblance in the symptoms of the Throat and other cervical diseases, therefore spoken of, is also present, and we should be governed by the same rules that are laid down when speaking of Ulcerated Throat. When the Mercurial disease affects the bones, the pain is more severe during the night when the patient is at rest. The bones of the nose are disengaged by the dose of Mercury attacking the same parts that the Syphilitic virus does. The Throat is the most common seat of the disease, and we have pain, swelling, and inflammation. The cartilages are sometimes affected and



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is known by lameness, pain, &c being present when the joints  
are the seat of the disease, which is frequently the case when  
the disease is constitutional; the symptoms, without alluding  
to the previous history of the case, would induce us  
to think it a case of Rheumatism;

An eruption of a purplish inflammatory kind also compre-  
-hendently attests the disease.

Treatment. In speaking of the remedies adapted adop-  
-ted to this disease, I shall follow the same arrangement  
that I did in treating of the history, symptoms, &c, and first,  
of the Constitutional form of the disease. When the patient  
is plethoric, the pulse full and quick, and the ulcers painful  
we should draw upon unctuous herbs; if the bowels are constipated  
they should be opened by some mild cathartics. Having by  
these means reduced the system sufficiently, we may now  
resort to the Compound Decoction of Sarsaparilla, made as follows

By Smoker Sarsaparilla 6lb

Wax Canarium 6lb

Melilotus 3lb

Sassafras gall 1lb



beil drawn slowly to one gallon, strain and add sugar enough to make it pleasant. The dose is 6*oz* to 8*oz* per day as the severity of the case requires, and at the same time exhibit pills (which I have seen of the most decided benefit) made in the following manner.

R Sopf. am. autumn. grs 40

Gum Guaiac. " 40

Sap. Raspae. 2. S.

Extract. Gentian. 2ij. At. S. Mop Dividit into  
pills 4*oz*. of which the dose is 3 per day. Should the patient lie  
in the opposite state (viz) emaciated & thin will not be so much necessity  
for promoting evacuation, we may commence directly with  
the Decoction and pills, the diet should be nourishing and genera-  
lizing. I had an opportunity, not long since, of curing a very acute  
acute case of the disease in a negro woman of some years continuu-  
m which had been treated by repeated courses of bleeding, the case being  
considered to be of a syphilitic character, there were very large and  
intolerable ulcers on various parts of the body, more particularly on the  
inside of the inside of the thighs, a very extensive one  
one on the back of the shoulder, besides smaller ones on

and the author's name is given in the title page. The book is bound in a dark green cloth cover with gold lettering on the spine and front cover. The title page reads: "A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE COLONIES TO THE PRESENT TIME. BY JAMES FENIMORE COOPER. NEW YORK: PUBLISHED FOR THE AUTHOR BY HARRIS & CO., 1851." The book is in good condition, with some wear and discoloration to the pages.

discharging a thin ichorous matter, the eyelids were also ulcerated  
her appetite impaired, pulse small and quick, and considerable emaciation.  
She had undergone 4 or 5 courses of bleeding. She was treated as  
I have indicated by the pills and decoctions, and in the course of a  
few months was cured, and has since been delivered of a few healthy  
child. The treatment of the disease when no ulcers are present does  
not differ from the treatment above, excepted.

The Scrofulous disease is usually confined to an ulcer; as a preliminary  
measure it is absolutely necessary the bleeding be discontinued, without  
this precaution all our remedies will be unavailing other in the  
constitutional form of the disease. The disease frequently disappears without  
any medicinally dietetizing doses. If the ulcer is painful, irritable  
and attended with inflammation of the surrounding parts, few baths  
will be necessary, we may use fomentations of Henbane, it relieves  
pains, and improves its condition. A salve of Lead in Salolino will  
very much assist in keeping the ulcer.

The Diseases when irritable and very little inflammatory attending  
which is frequently the case when the disease is of long standing requires  
Gouttes of bread and milk with a small quantity of Lard or animal fat.

and the writing is done in a single  
continuous line and there are very few  
corrections. The script is a cursive hand  
of some kind, which is difficult to read  
but appears to be a form of Gothic script.  
The paper is yellowed and stained, and  
there are several small holes in the left margin,  
which may be due to insects or moths.  
The book is bound in dark brown leather  
with gold-tooled edges. The spine is  
decorated with a central panel containing  
the title and author's name. The front  
cover has a large panel containing the title  
and author's name. The back cover has  
a smaller panel containing the title and  
author's name.

of the best applications, having attested the merit of the we may wash the parts with a weak solution of Sulfate of Zinc, or Saliva Cervaria. In the treatment of the Mercureal Ulcers the mildest applications will answer best, as a broad and white poultice, if it is painful fomentations with Brandt will be beneficial, as soon as irritation is reduced some mild drying should be used, if pain is excited they must be discontinued.

The ulcerated Throat is to be treated by gauzes of Sulphate of Zinc Mr. Mathews relates a very interesting case of a woman, who had laboured under the disease in the throat for a considerable length of time, she was greatly reduced and the Tonsils, & uvula destroyed, by the use of the decoction of Sarapiller and Semu pills with a salve on the back of the neck, the ulcers gradually healed, and the woman rapidly recovered.

When the Cartilages, Bones, & Peristium are affected the treatment will be the same as that for the Constitutional disease measured as the two are always connected.

By pursuing the plan of treatment indicated above we will



be, ordinarily, successful; but in some instances the constitutional disease may become, by repeated courses of illness, so deeply seated as to baffle all our skill, and I must however not be disheartened, nor remain a quiet spectators of the ravages the disease is committing on our patient, but endeavor to alleviate, although we are unable to effect a cure.

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